

Inside Argonne

[inside argonne](#) > [news](#) > [rss](#) > [announcements](#) >

Daily ORPS Summary

updated 4/1/08 11:24 AM

Below is a daily listing of significant occurrences.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

Argonne National Laboratory, Advanced Photon Source, Building 400

- Management Concern User Report of Suspected Exposure to Diffuse Laser Light – (Significance Category 3) On August 13, 2008, a visiting scientist reported via telephone to Advanced Photon Source (APS) personnel that he suspected he was exposed to diffuse laser light from a Class IIIb laser while performing work on August 9 in Building 400. The visiting scientist returned to APS on August 15, was examined by an ophthalmologist (no eye damage was detected by the examination), subsequently was interviewed to obtain additional information, and then left to return to his home in Europe. The involved Class IIIb laser system was locked out of service pending additional review.

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant- Shackle Found with No

Manufacturer's Identification – (Significance Category 4) A shackle marked "CHINA" was discovered in a tool box on equipment that a construction contractor had used at another job site. The shackle was in good condition and OSHA compliant; however, it did not meet the DOE standard requiring a manufacturer's name/trademark on the device. The shackle was removed from the tool box and taken offsite. The shackle was not in use at the time of discovery.

Y12 National Security Complex, Building 9201-1- Water Main Break at Building

9201-1 – (Significance Category 3) On August 16, 2008, water was observed running out the front door of Building 9201-1. A drive by of the area approximately one hour before revealed nothing. Approximately 6-12 inches of water and mud was observed in and around the shop area and the entire first floor was also covered to varying degrees with water and mud. The main potable water supply was isolated to the building to prevent further water damage. Possible environmental impacts and structural conditions were evaluated. Tenants were notified to evaluate their areas for damage. Pumping out the basement was initiated. A critique was held and an investigation team was formed.

Y12 National Security Complex, Building 9204-2E- Environmental Protection Demolition -Near Miss – (Significance Category 3) While removing old office wall panels, workers discovered electrical cables running through a 3-inch hole in one of the panels. A worker attempted to cut the panel away from these cables with a jig saw and cut an energized cable causing sparking. The worker finished the cut to prevent the panel from falling and damaging the cable further. The electrical cable that was cut was a 110/120-volt power cable that plugged in with a standard plug to a communications box. The other cables running through the hole were very low voltage communication or had been previously abandoned. The demolition area was secured, flagged off, and all work on this job was suspended.

Idaho National Laboratory, Advanced Test Reactor, Building 609 - Personnel Access to Damaged Electrical Components Without Proper PPE Prior to Accepting LO/TO – (Significance Category 3) While inspecting the control circuit for the M-6 air compressor after it unexpectedly tripped following mechanical maintenance, an electrician and two operators had opened the hinged cover to the electrical panel that housed the control circuits without wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Although the 480-volt circuit breakers supplying the compressor were open, opening a hinged cover that could expose energized connections between 277 and 600 volts requires personnel to wear PPE. Notifications were made and a critique was held.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Building 3425 – Near Miss - Load Drops When Crane Boom Unexpectedly Retracts – (Significance Category 3)

While lifting a 1,300-pound load of reinforcing steel bars at Building 3425 (the Ultra Low Background Counting Facility), the uppermost inner tube section of the crane boom unexpectedly and instantly retracted about 6 feet, dropping the load approximately 8 to 10 feet. There were no injuries. The crane had a current inspection check during the morning pre-job and had made several lifts before this failure occurred. No workers were in the drop area or under the load but subcontractor ironworkers were in close proximity waiting for the load of bars. The work in this area was immediately suspended and notifications were made. The crane was placed in a safe condition and removed from service pending further investigation.



U.S. Department of Energy

UChicago
Argonne



Office of Science
Department of Energy